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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/790,196	03/02/2004	Akiko Niimi	118891	1018
25944	7590	11/28/2006	EXAMINER	
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			NGUYEN, LAM S	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2853	

DATE MAILED: 11/28/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/790,196		NIIMI, AKIKO	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	LAM S. NGUYEN		2853	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 October 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-5 and 7-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-5 and 7-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 October 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1, 3, 7-9, 10-11, 14-16, and 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rhome (US 6095628) in view of Tanaka et al. (JP 411066703A).

Regarding to claims 1, 10, 17:

Rhome. discloses a printing device comprising:

a medium conveyance section (*FIG. 5, element 16*) movable along a linear direction (*FIG. 5: The direction E*), on which a workpiece (*FIG. 1-3, element T*) can be set for printing;

a fixed side structure (*FIG. 6, element 10: The top section of the device*) that supports the medium conveyance section and has a space formed therein for accommodating the medium conveyance section (*FIGs. 1-3*), the fixed structure including a first side, a second side, and a length between the first side and the second side (*FIG. 6: The first side and second side are the front side and the rear side of the top section, respectively*); and

a head (*FIG. 6, element 24*), provided on the fixed side structure, for forming images on the workpiece (*FIGs. 1-3*);

wherein the medium conveyance section moves along the length of the fixed side structure (*FIG. 6*);

wherein the medium conveyance section is at a second position so as to project partially from the first side of the fixed side structure, when workpiece is set on, or removed from, the medium conveyance section (*FIGs. 1-3*); and

wherein during a printing operation onto the workpiece, the medium conveyance section is controlled so as to move along the length from the second position where it projects partially from the first side of the fixed side structure to a third position where it projects partially from the second side, and then return again to the position where it projects partially from the first side (*FIG. 6 shows the third position where the conveyance 16 projects partially to the rear side of the top section*).

Rhome, however, is silent wherein the medium conveyance section is at a first position so as to be within the length of the fixed side structure when a power supply to the device is in an off state.

Tanaka et al. discloses a device comprising a medium conveyance section (*Abstract and FIG. 5: The disc tray 41*) movable in a linear direction (*FIG. 5, element 41*), on which a workpiece (*FIG. 5, element 10*) can be set in position and a structure (*FIG. 5, element 4*) which supports said medium conveyance section and has a space formed therein for accommodating said medium conveyance section (*FIG. 4-5*), wherein the medium conveyance section (disk tray) is located within the structure when power supply to the device is in an off state (*Abstract: The device controller (CPU) checks whether the disk tray is in an open or close state. If the disk tray is in an open state, the CPU performs the power-off after performing a tray closing processing. In other words, the disk tray (conveyance section) is located within the structure when the power supply is in an off state*).

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify Rhome's printing apparatus to position the medium conveyance inside the structure when the power supply is in an off state as disclosed by Tanaka et al.

The motivation for doing so would have been to avoid any damage or being scratched to the disc or the tray during a non-use state of the apparatus as taught by Tanaka et al. (*Abstract*).

- **Rhome also teaches the following claimed invention:**

Regarding to claims 3, 11: wherein the fixed side structure has a cutaway section for causing the medium conveyance section to be exposed, in an edge on the first side to which the medium conveyance section projects when the workpiece is set in position on, or removed from, the medium conveyance section (*FIGs. 1-3: The cut away section is the middle space of the housing 12 where the conveyance 16 is exposed*).

Regarding to claims 7, 14: wherein the length between the first side and the second side of the fixed sided structure is longest (*FIG. 6: The length is the width of the top section from the front edge to the rear edge, which is longer than the width of the top surface. In other words, the width from the front edge to the rear edge is longest width of the top section*).

Regarding to claims 8, 15, 18: wherein the medium conveyance section is a platen (*FIG. 6, element 16*).

Regarding to claims 9, 16, 19: wherein the workpiece is a fabric (*FIG. 1-3, element T*).

2. Claims 4-5, 12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rhome (US 6095628) in view of Tanaka et al. (JP 411066703A), as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Drynkin et al. (US 6580444).

Rhome, as modified, discloses the claimed invention as discussed above except a cover for covering said medium conveyance section when it is in a partially projecting state from said fixed side structure, said cover being provided detachably with respect to the fixed side structure.

Drynkin et al. discloses a printing apparatus comprising a printhead unit (*FIG. 2, element 26*), accommodated in a fixed side structure (*FIG. 2, element 16*), for forming images on a printing medium (*FIG. 2, element 20*) conveyed by a linear reciprocating movable conveyance section (*FIG. 1-2, element 22*), and a cover (*FIG. 1, element 24*) for covering the conveyance section when it is in a partially projecting state from said fixed side structure (*FIG. 1: The conveyance section 22 is in a position partially projecting to a structure covered by element 24*), said cover being provided detachably with respect to the fixed side structure (*column 5, lines 24-26: The cover 24 is easily removable from the housing 16*).

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify Rhome's printing apparatus (as modified) to include a cover for covering the printhead unit and the conveyance section as disclosed by Drynkin et al.

The motivation for doing so would have been well known in the art for providing protection to the printhead unit and the conveyance section.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LAM S. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571)272-2151. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00AM - 3:30PM.

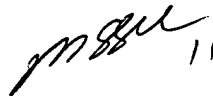
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, STEPHEN D. MEIER can be reached on (571)272-2149. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

Art Unit: 2853

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

LN
11/21/06

 11/27/06
MANISH S. SHAH
PRIMARY EXAMINER